

The Messenger

A newsletter of

St. John's Episcopal Church **Randolph, Vermont**

July 2010

Building for the future with thanksgiving and praise

Rector's Message

Dear People of St. John's,

Your vestry is committed to the continuing strength and growth of St. John's. Included in this newsletter you'll find a job description which they and I worked up for a Christian Education Coordinator at St. John's. The goal is for someone to help facilitate and nurture educational opportunities at all levels during the coming months of transition so that none of the momentum we've seen is lost. Many of the pieces are already in place like our fine bunch of young parents who have given so much of themselves to our Sunday School, or like the five session Marcus Borg adult discussion series which will need to be scheduled and promoted. (I wouldn't mind hanging around myself this fall for that!) In any case, if you would like to take on this ministry, please speak to me or any of the vestry.

As I recently mentioned in a sermon, one of my regrets is that I/we have not been able to nurture and support more Bible study over the years. Schedules, formats, interests vary and we've always had at least a small bunch of us bubbling away on some aspect of Bible exploration. I realize that this has been one of the most enriching and inspiring parts of my ministry and personal faith development here with you.

Whether its work in prayer, liturgy, church history, music, or the Bible, a good session with others digging in can be like sitting in a hot tub on the coldest day of winter or standing on the rim of the Grand Canyon for the first time.

To all of you, I say insist to others or whoever the CE Coordinator is that you want this to continue or even help yourself by telling him or her you'll take the reins on this or that project yourself. To those of you who haven't been so quick to test the waters, I say "jump in".

I hope you'll continue the journey and have many "unique adventures" along the way.

Rejoicing in Christ God's Word to us,

**Christian Education Chair and Vestry Liaison
Suggested Job Description**

At strategic and inspired times (July/August before Sunday School start-up, October before All Saints, early December before Christmas, etc.) convene key persons (like the current mothers/teachers) to check in on Sunday School plans and scheduling around such questions as:

What are your plans?

What coming Sundays are scheduled?

Are there any ways you'd like the church community to be involved?

Should one of us get a story in the Messenger/the bulletin?

Other?

- Keep the vestry informed (memo at least to the Senior Warden)
- Formally or informally gather a committee with larger focus than Sunday School to discuss overall Christian Education possibilities (adult programs, who might be good resources for special presentations, work with older children, some kind of Advent or Lent series, etc.)
- Encourage and invite interest in Christian Education (formation) at all levels (announcement time, Diocesan workshops, etc.)
- Follow the Spirit of God.

Addenda (inserted here 5/25/10) (for instance: we just received a special five part DVD and work book Marcus Borg adult discussion series - \$39.00 with six \$13.00 study guide booklets – which turned a bunch on at Sunday coffee hour and we were able to acquire with the Doris Withrow Spiritual Discovery” fund (This is Jackie Wilder’s mom’s memorial). The Question is who will help arrange this happening in the fall and keep an eye out for such opportunities in the future?

St. John’s Episcopal Church 15 Summer Street Randolph, Vermont 05060

The Rev. Timothy C. Eberhardt, Rector
Vestry of St. John’s

Steven Eubanks, Senior Warden
Ray Mayer, Junior Warden
Pat Mayer, Clerk
William Arnold, Treasurer
Jane Eubanks, Receipts Treasurer

Nancy Wright
Susan O’Malley
Linda Nagy
Ellen Baker

Delegate to 2010 Diocesan Convention –
Steve Eubanks, Nancy Wright, Jackie Wilder

Alternate delegates –
Ellen Baker, Pat Mayer, Susan O’Malley

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Transition 2010 - Update

On Wednesday evening, June 2nd, the Vestry met with Bishop Ely, Lynn Bates, Diocesan Minister for Transition, and Laura Hunter, our Transition companion.

Bishop Ely along with Laura and Lynn emphasized the need for patience as we move through this transition process. Lynn admonished us to “trust the process” and not rush through the interim period but to take our time and catch our breath. Bishop Ely encouraged us to take advantage of his experience and wisdom as we proceed. Companion Laura assures us of her support and guidance at every step.

The first step is the “prayer process” guided by the Spirit. Let us all pray for guidance and mutual support not only within the Vestry but within our entire parish family. You may be assured that the Vestry will maintain a maximum presence through out the transition period. This ongoing process is followed by the interim ministry.

The interim period should be taken as “a gift” and used as a time for reflection and discernment. Lynn will be helping us to find an interim priest but, we must provide her with answers to questions regarding the qualities we are looking for in an interim so that she will be able to find a match for us. To this end, from time to time, the Vestry may be soliciting opinions and preferences from parishioners. The Vestry will determine specifics and will be guided by the experience of the diocese.

Without rushing we need to determine what the best leadership model for St. John’s is. We will determine what God is calling us to become. We will put together a discernment committee but, not right away – again, we were cautioned not to rush. When the time comes we hope you will be willing to serve. Because there are many leadership models and no one better than the other, we will need to look closely at what God is calling us to be. We, the Vestry, understand that this all sounds somewhat complicated but we want you to trust the process as we do.

For the present, we need to focus on saying “Goodbye” and to view this as an opportunity for all concerned. We ask everyone to work and pray together to maintain the strong presence of St. John’s church within the community at large. Please keep in mind that we each represent St. John’s and collectively we are St John’s. To this end, very shortly the Vestry will be circulating a survey (please see the Survey form at the end of this newsletter) to determine what outreach organizations parishioners support and in what number. This survey will contribute to our parish profile and help us to determine other needs both now and in the future.

Faithfully,

The Vestry

Pastoral Care Committee

The pastoral Care Committee met June 1 with Pat leading us in our prayer.

After a review of the past month, we gratefully agreed there were few health concerns and those whom we, and parishioners, have prayed for are doing better. Graduation and wedding congratulatory cards were sent.

It was noted the various areas of outreach in which our parishioners are involved. Foodshelf, Shizukuishi student exchange, Gifford Auxiliary LNA/LPN Scholarship committee, high school boy's Lacrosse, library, chaplaincy and more.

Quite a bit of time was spent on our role with Tim's retirement, supply and interim priests. We will aim for smooth transitions.

Again, we strongly urge you to share with us your news or that of others where we can respond.

The Pastoral Care Committee

Betsy Arnold
Mickie Richardson

Tim Eberhardt
Mary Ellen Bean
Pat Mayer

Ginny Cantlin
Ellie Streeter

Anniversaries July 2010

Birthdays: 7/1 Ellie Streeter 7/4 Christine Gilbert
 7/4 Beth Pelletier 7/13 Nancy Dubois

Weddings: 7/11 Lincoln & Louise Clark

St. Margaret's Guild

The Guild will meet in September to plan the bazaar. Please remember Penny social, Trinkets and Treasures, etc. as you travel this summer!

Pat Lawrence

Correspondence Received

A thank you note from Jennifer Sparadeo who just graduated from Smith College follows:

“Dear St. John’s Friends,

Thank you so much for the warm wishes and all the love and support you’ve provided me with over the years! I still treasure the Prayer Shawl you made me! Thank you also for the beautiful book of prayers, “Guide My Feet”! I will undoubtedly refer to it as I pursue my career in Elementary Education and work with the children of Boston. Thank you for my spiritual foundation and for giving me a sense of belonging. You’ve been there with me throughout my journey and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Thank you and God bless.

Love,

Jen

And further correspondence....

A note from Vermont Interfaith Power and Light:

“The majority of Vermont’s faith communities rely on fuel oil to heat their houses of worship. If congregations and their individual members would take significant steps to weatherize their religious buildings and homes to make them more energy efficient, there would be less demand for oil and less need to drill for it – offshore or anywhere.

It’s also urgent that the U.S. Senate pass a strong climate bill this year. Please call the office of Senator Leahy (802-863-2525) and Senator Sanders (1-800-339-9834) and ask them to support a strong climate bill.

It’s essential that the Senate pass a bill that puts a price on carbon and gets our country moving toward a clean energy future. And ask your out-of-state friends to contact their senators. Contact VT IPL for more information – email info@vtipl.org or 802-658-0902.

Signed by Sam Swanson, President of the Board of VIPL

The FOOD SHELF needs help badly.

On each Sunday, if you are able, please bring a food item (non-perishable, canned or boxed goods) and place it in the box marked “FOOD SHELF ITEMS” in the hall entryway near the kitchen

Thanks, Mickie

Sunday ministries

	Sun – July 4 Pentecost 6 9 am	Sun – July 11 Pentecost 7 8 am St. John's 10 am Old CC	Sun – July 18 Pentecost 8 9 am	Sun – July 25 Pentecost 9 8 am St. John's 10 am Old CC
Eucharistic Minister	Mickie Richardson	none	Linda Runnion	Christine Gilbert
Readers	Neil Richardson	none	Christine Gilbert	Jane & Steve Eubanks
Ushers	Susan O'Malley	none	Pat & Ray Mayer	Bill & Betsy Arnold
Intercessions	Neil Richardson	none	Gay Gaston	Nancy Wright
Oblations	Jane & Steve Eubanks	none	Nancy Wright Mickie R.	Pat & Ray Mayer
Coffee Hour	Mickie Richardson	Louise Clark	Pat Mayer	Old CC folks
Flowers	Sue O'Malley	Louise & Lincoln Clark	Mickie & Neil Richardson	Old CC folks

Please see St. John's Outreach Survey attached to this Messenger edition.

July 23, 2010

St. John's Outreach Survey

Outreach is a strong part of our service/mission here at St. John's. It is not only a part of our individual identity but, an integral part of our collective identity within the community and, a vital part of our church profile. Therefore, as we move further into the transition process we want to be accurate in identifying all the outreach ministries in which parishioners are involved. To this end, please complete the following questionnaire and return it to the basket at back of the church as soon as possible. Thank you.

Place a check () next to each outreach organization/group in which you have participated over the past year.

- MDG charities: Please indicate hours devoted to this charity
REECH _____
CHABA _____
Food Shelf _____
ERD: Heifer _____
Partners in health _____
Red Cross _____
- Local Volunteering: Hrs./month _____
- Hospital Auxiliary Hr./month _____
- Thrift Shop Hrs./month _____
- Senior Center Hrs./month _____
- Chaplaincy Hrs./month _____
- Interfaith Caregivers Hr./month _____
- Diocesan Support Hr./month _____
(Committees, Boards, Guilds, Assessment) Hr./month _____
- Christmas Food boxes total hrs. _____
- Overnight Guests total hrs. _____
- 350 Bell ring: total hrs. _____
- Other _____ Hrs./month _____
Name _____